

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Following entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-13, 27, 28, 34, 37, and 41-43 will be pending.

In an earlier Office Action, dated August 28, 2002, claim 1 was found to have allowable subject matter because "the prior art does not show a flange comprising two ends, the first end coupling to the shafts of the first and second blowers, the second end coupling to the housing." [8/28/02 Office Action, p. 9] Claim 1 has been amended herein to reinsert the claim limitations that were found to distinguish over the prior art. In the March 4, 2003 Office Action, claim 1 was objected to and was rejected under 35 USC §112. Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify and eliminate the objectionable terms. Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable for the reasons expressed in the August 28, 2002 Office Action, as are dependent claims 2-6 and 8-13.

In the March 4, 2003 Office Action, claims 27, 28, and 41-43 were found to be allowable if rewritten to include limitations of rejected base claims. These claims are amended herein and should now be allowable.

In the March 4, 2003 Office Action, claim 34 was said to be allowable if rewritten to overcome a §112 rejection and to include limitations of its base claim. Claim 34 has been amended accordingly and should now be allowable.

In the August 28, 2002 Office Action, claim 37 was found to be allowable if rewritten to overcome a §112 rejection and to include limitations of its base claim. Claim 37 has been amended accordingly and should now be allowable.

If the examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, the undersigned can be reached at 415-512-1312, x109.

Respectfully submitted,

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